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## **WISCONSIN FIRE OFFICIALS, STATE LEGISLATORS, SAFETY AND INDUSTRY LEADERS JOIN TO RAISE AWARENESS OF STATE CARBON MONOXIDE ALARM LAWS**

**March 10, 2010, Green Bay, WI**— Senator Dave Hansen, Representative Gordon Hintz, the Wisconsin Homebuilders Association, Safe Kids Wisconsin, and Green Bay Fire joined together at a press event to raise awareness of the new state laws that will help protect Wisconsin residents from carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning.

Later today, Governor Jim Doyle is anticipated to sign SB 415, which will require carbon monoxide alarms in all new and existing one- and two-family residences having a fuel burning appliance, fireplace or an attached garage beginning February 1, 2011. A previously passed law, effective April 1, 2010, requires CO alarms in all multi-family dwellings having a fuel burning appliance.

“We knew that we needed to expand the original law to help save all residents from this toxic gas,” said Representative Hintz, sponsor of SB 415. “While it offered protection for some residents, it left many families vulnerable to carbon monoxide poisoning.”

“By working with fire officials and homebuilders, we were able to illustrate why everyone needs to have a CO alarm,” added Senator Hansen.

At the press event, Kidde announced a donation of 400 carbon monoxide alarms that will be distributed to the Green Bay and Oshkosh Fire Departments, as well as Safe Kids Wisconsin and the Wisconsin Homebuilders Association, for installation in low-income homes.

“We were pleased to have the opportunity to work on a life-saving bill and we look forward to communicating the new law and getting CO alarms to Wisconsin residents who cannot afford one,” said Brad Boycks of the Wisconsin Homebuilders Association.

Carbon monoxide is the leading cause of accidental poisoning deaths in America, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Produced when fuel is burned, carbon monoxide is emitted by common fuel-burning appliances such as furnaces, water heaters, fireplaces, and stoves. Additional sources may include improperly ventilated generators, space heaters, fireplaces, barbecue grills, and car exhaust.

“The only safe way to detect this colorless, odorless gas in your home is with a working carbon monoxide alarm,” said Libbe Slavin, Safe Kids Wisconsin Coordinator. “If you don’t have a CO alarm in your home, I urge you to install one today. Don’t wait for the law to take effect.”

For more information about the new law and how to protect your family from carbon monoxide, visit [Knowaboutco.com](http://Knowaboutco.com)

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